

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 18, as follows:

The pencil case **22** can define one or more separate compartments. In the embodiment illustrated in the drawings, the pencil case **22** defines a pair of separate compartments, a lower compartment **46** and an upper compartment **48**. The lower compartment **46** constitutes a first section **54** of the pencil case **22**. The first section **54** comprises a bottom wall **56**, a front wall **58** and a rear wall **60**. The upper compartment constitutes a second section **62** of the pencil case **22**, the second section **62** comprises a bottom wall **64**, a pair of opposed side walls **66**, a front wall **68** and a rear wall **70**.

The lower compartment **46** can be relatively narrow and be suitable for retaining pens and pencils. The upper compartment **48** can be wider than the lower compartment **46** and be therefore suitable for retaining rulers, protractors and the like. In the embodiment illustrated in the drawings, the lower compartment **46** is disposed outside the front opening **34** of the book rack **20** for easy access to the lower compartment **46** and to allow for greater depth of the lower compartment **46** without restricting access to the book rack **20** through the front opening **34**. Additionally, the lower compartment **46** is typically disposed in a generally horizontal plane which is at an elevation lower than the generally horizontal plane within which the bottom wall **28** of the book rack **20** is disposed.